

DESIGN DRIVEN INNOVATION LAB



THE DESIGN DRIVEN INNOVATION LAB AT AALBORG UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

TECHNICAL FACULTY OF IT AND DESIGN

Design as an approach to solving complex and strategic challenges. How design can help shape the strategy of large organizations by helping them to renew themselves, implement digital technologies or become more sustainable.

RESEARCH

KEY RESEARCH AREAS

In DDI lab we work with design as an approach to solving complex and strategic challenges.

We explore for instance how expert design teams shape the strategy of large organizations by creating product designs that provide examples of how the company can renew itself, implement digital technologies or become more sustainable.

WHAT WE DO

In many organizations design is only applied as styling, because we do not know enough about how to apply design at a more strategic level.

There are some great examples of design teams who have managed to create designs that solved complex problems or helped companies overcome large strategic challenges. However, we do not know much about:

- › how and why they work,
- › what kind of methods and approaches they use,
- › how they are best supported in the organization.

This is what we explore in the DDI Lab.

EDUCATION

STUDY RELATED ACTIVITIES

The research groups teaching activities are centred around the program: Civil-engineering in Architecture and Design - with speciality in Industrial Design.

Besides this, members of the research group also teach in the interaction design and entrepreneurial engineering specialities.

KEY PROJECTS

DESIGNED TO LAST

The aim of this project is to give small and mid-size companies some insight into what it would mean for their company, if they were to extend the lifetime of their products. The project is funded by Spar Nord Foundation.

EXPERT CREATORS

In this project we explored the top 5% designers at LEGO. That is the designers who work with strategic challenges and who have created major successes.

The outcome is new approaches and methods for strategic application of design.

DESIGN DNA

In this project we explored seminal products that renew companies such as B&O's A9 and the renewed Mini Cooper.

The outcome of this project is theories and methods on how to build the DNA of new products, while ensuring both traditions and renewal.

PUBLICATIONS

IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS

- › The Structure of Problem Frames and Solution Frames
- › The Shortcomings of Design Thinking when Compared to Designerly Thinking
- › Reasoning in the Fuzzy Front End of Innovation: Framing the Product DNA



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

COLLABORATION

WHO BENEFITS FROM OUR RESEARCH

Our research is particularly interesting to innovation managers in large organizations facing strategic and ambiguous challenges (e.g. finding ways to enter new markets where they do not know the rules or ways to differentiate in markets where competitors are starting to catch up) or small and medium sized companies who are looking for a way to compete against new types of products and services with a better fit to market demands or are struggling to find a way to approach digitalization or sustainability.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

We have collaborated with companies such as: LEGO, B&O, DALI, Alfa Laval, TC Electronics, Red Cross, Daimler, Unilever etc.

VIDEO PRESENTATION



CONTACT

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